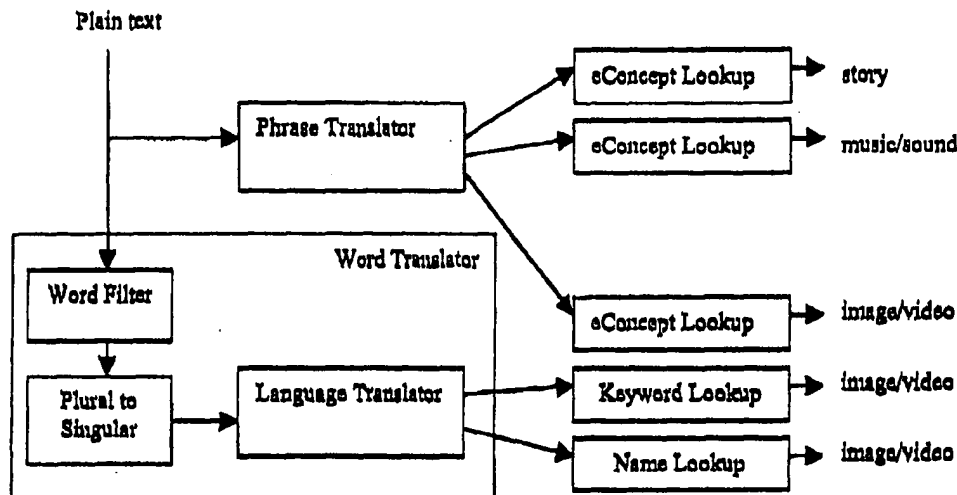




This document describes the process of turning plain text into computer generated animation. The process of generating animation from a library of images, sound, music, component animation, and story structure has already been described in a previous patent application (Application number ??? on 5/7/1999). This document focuses on the process of turning plain text into criteria of selection animation components.



The end goal of the system is to find suitable story, music/sound, and image/video from the input plain text. This is done by analyzing phrases and by analyzing words.

Phrase Translator

The phrase translator looks for phrase matches between the original text and phrases in the Phrase-Template Library. The Phrase-Template Library contains matching between phrases and concept keywords. For example:

Phrase	Keyword	Language
Happy * birthday	eBirthday	English
Herzliche Glueckwuensche zum * Geburtstag	eBirthday	German
It's a boy	eBaby	English

The phrases can contain wildcard. In this case the "Happy * birthday" phrase will match both "happy birthday", and "happy 30th birthday" in the original text. Since the language of the original text is known, the text is only compared to the phrases of that language in the Phrase-Template Library. This helps to reduce the search time.

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The end result of the Phrase Translator is a set of keywords. These keywords are then used to look up appropriate stories, music/sound, image/video for the final animation assembly. The assembly process is covered in a previous patent application.

Word Translator

The Word Translator break up the incoming plain text into a collection of words and find matches with the images and videos in the library. The collection of words goes through the 3 components of the Word Translator as follows:

Word Filter – this component removes words that are unnecessary or confusing for the image/video lookup process. For instance, it removed most prepositions.

Plural to Singular – this component converts all plural nouns to singular nouns

Language Translator – this component translates the original language to English.

The end result of the Word Translator is a collection of English words that are relevant to the search for image/video. It is necessary for all the words to be in English because the library of image/video content are indexed by English words.

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